AN ADVENTURE OF

TINTIN

FREELANCE REPORTER FOR *LE VINGTIÈME SIÈCLE*



Drawn by RODIER *from the characters created by* HERGÉ

From a proposed scenario in the "Spirou" magazine

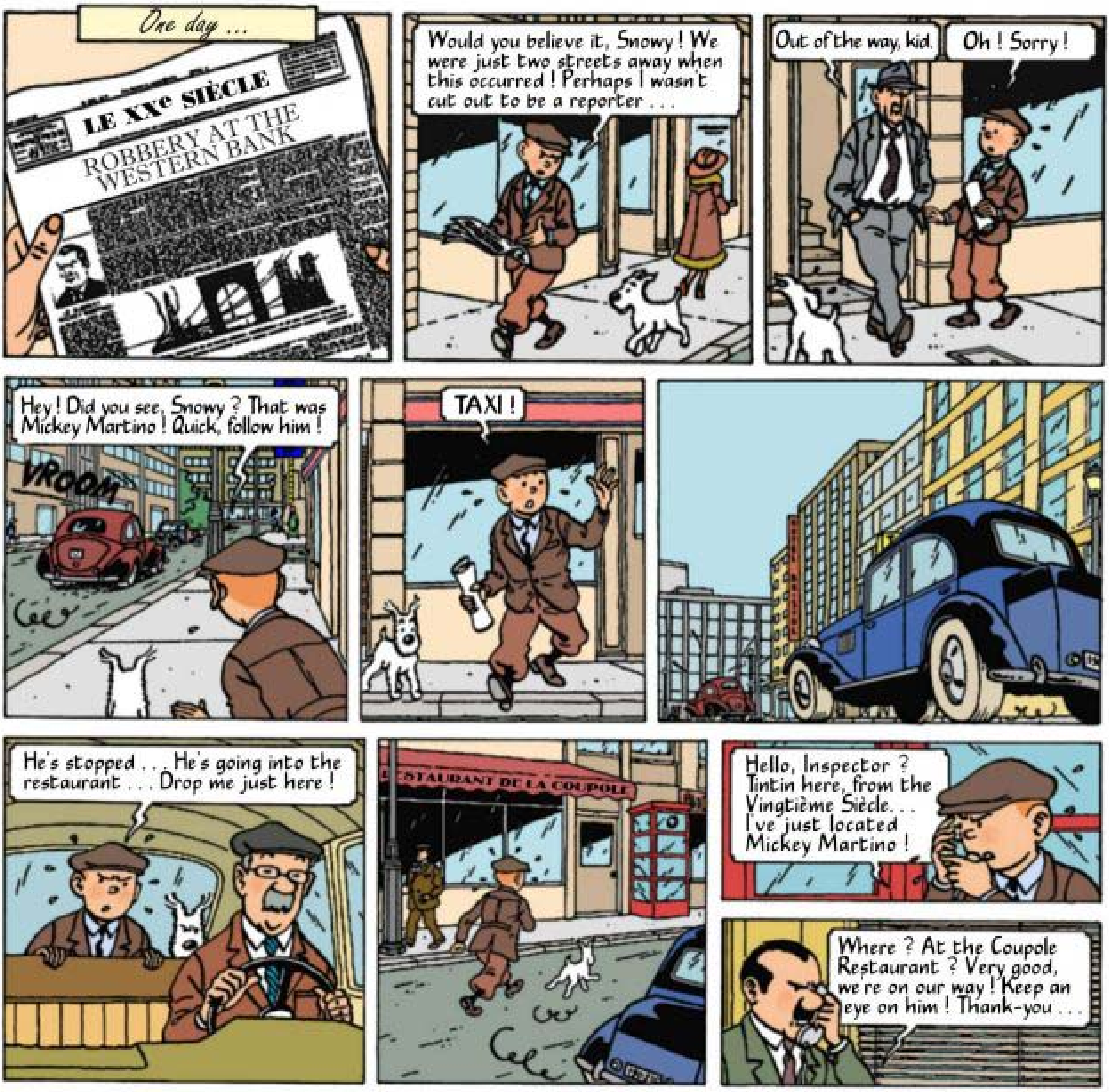
No. 1027 from 19th December 1957

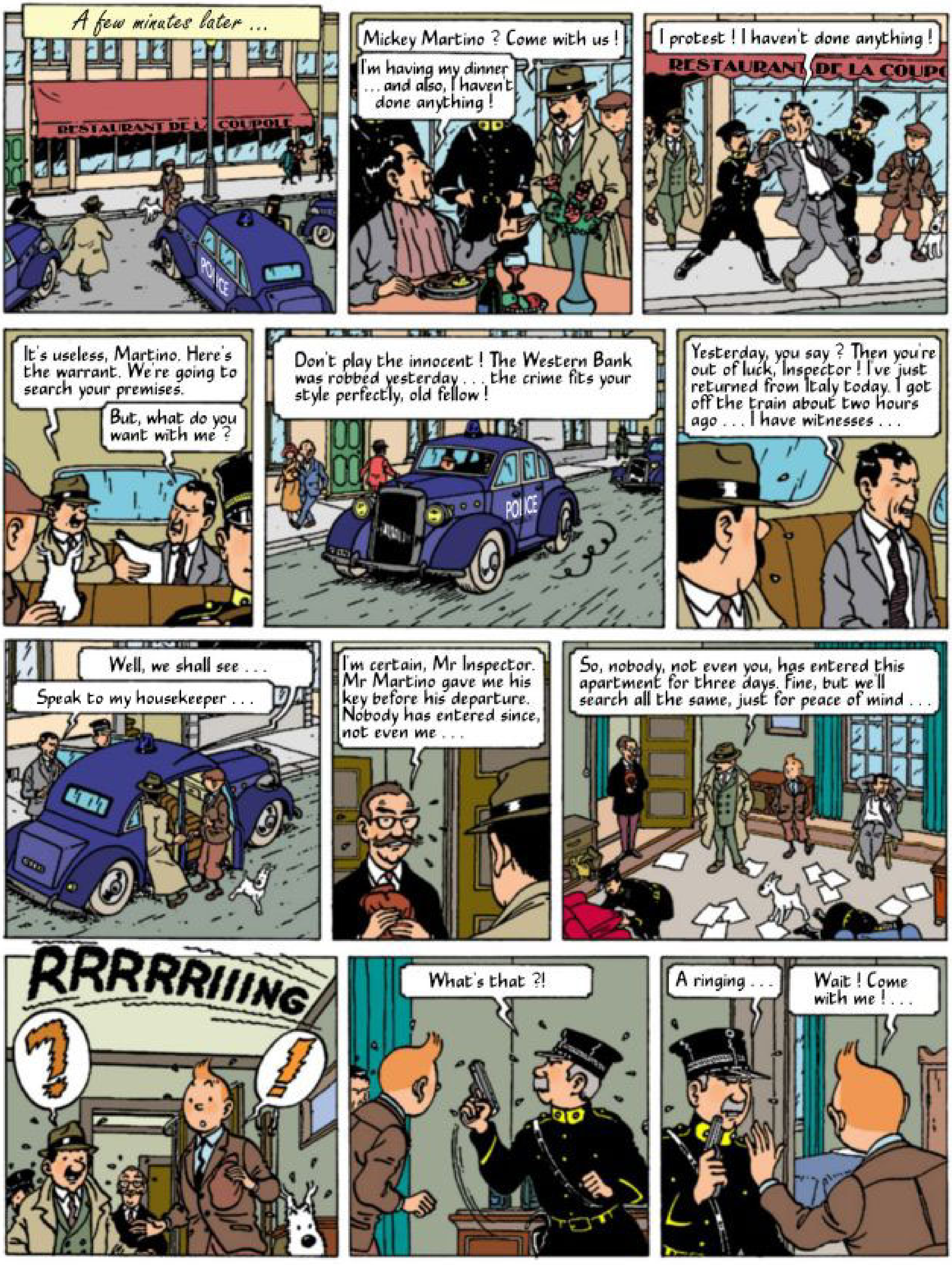
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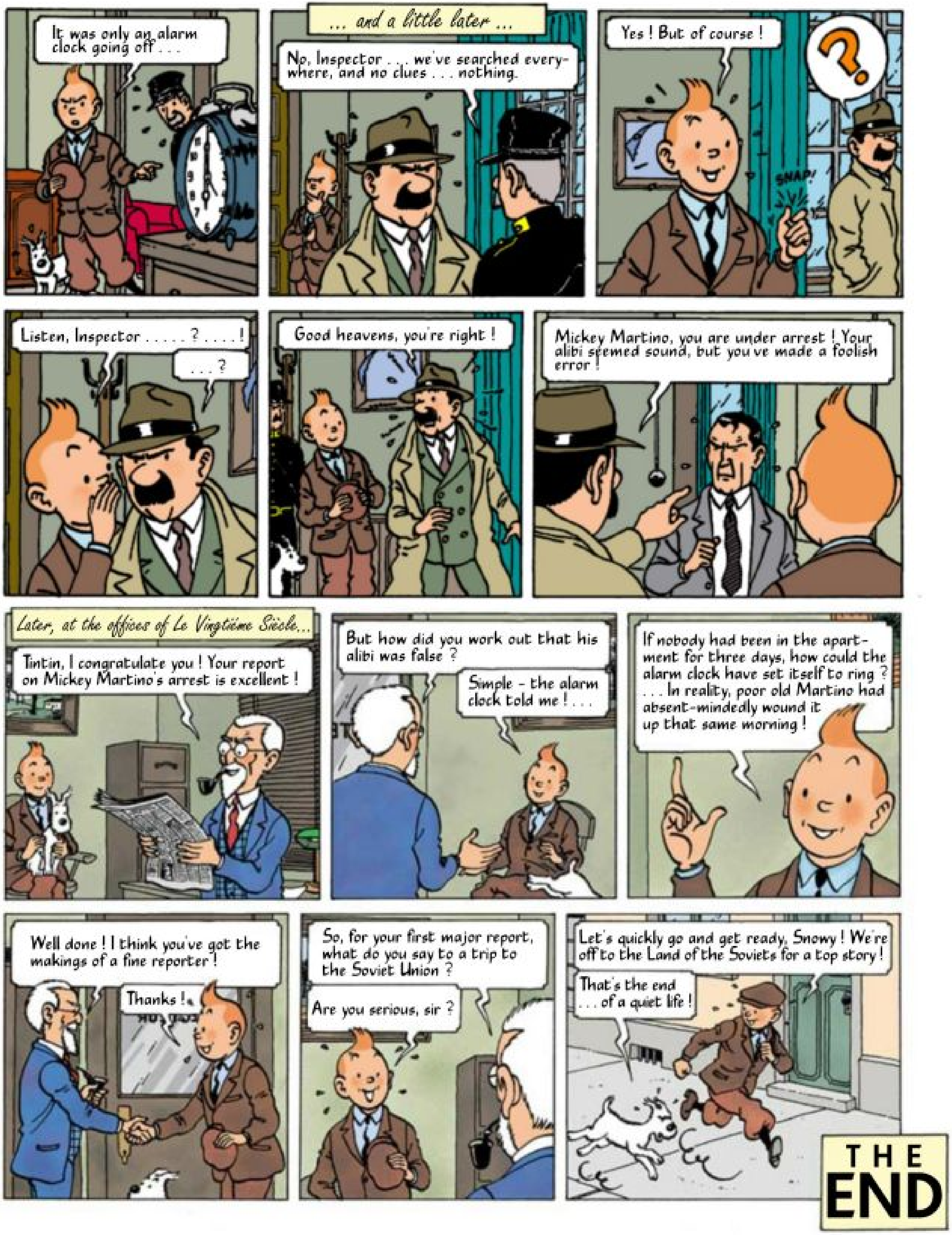
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A few minutes later ...
RESTAURANT DE LA COUPOLE
POLICE
Mickey Martino ? Come with us !
I'm having my dinner ... and also, I haven't done anything !
I protest ! I haven't done anything !
RESTAURANT DE LA COUPO
It's useless, Martino. Here's the warrant. We're going to search your premises.
But, what do you want with me ?
Don't play the innocent ! The Western Bank was robbed yesterday . . . the crime fits your style perfectly, old fellow !
POLICE
Yesterday, you say ? Then you're out of luck, Inspector ! I've just returned from Italy today. I got off the train about two hours ago . . . I have witnesses . . .
Well, we shall see . . .
Speak to my housekeeper . . .
I'm certain, Mr Inspector. Mr Martino gave me his key before his departure. Nobody has entered since, not even me . . .
So, nobody, not even you, has entered this apartment for three days. Fine, but we'll search all the same, just for peace of mind . . .
RRRRRIIING
What's that ?!
A ringing . . .
Wait ! Come with me ! . . .



It was only an alarm clock going off . . .
... and a little later ...
No, Inspector . . . we've searched everywhere, and no clues . . . nothing.
Yes ! But of course !
?
SNAP!
Listen, Inspector . . . . . ? . . . . !
. . . ?
Good heavens, you're right !
Mickey Martino, you are under arrest ! Your alibi seemed sound, but you've made a foolish error !
Later, at the offices of Le Vingtième Siècle...
Tintin, I congratulate you ! Your report on Mickey Martino's arrest is excellent !
But how did you work out that his alibi was false ?
Simple - the alarm clock told me ! . . .
If nobody had been in the apartment for three days, how could the alarm clock have set itself to ring ? . . . In reality, poor old Martino had absent-mindedly wound it up that same morning !
Well done ! I think you've got the makings of a fine reporter !
Thanks !
So, for your first major report, what do you say to a trip to the Soviet Union ?
Are you serious, sir ?
Let's quickly go and get ready, Snowy ! We're off to the Land of the Soviets for a top story !
That's the end . . . of a quiet life !
THE END